



CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

AGENDA DATE: February 03, 2009

TO: Mayor and Councilmembers

FROM: Administration Division, Community Development Department

SUBJECT: Poet Laureate Guidelines Language Change

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council approve recommended changes to the Poet Laureate Guidelines.

DISCUSSION:

On November 2, 2004, City Council approved a process for and established a City Poet Laureate. On December 19, 2006, City Council approved minor amendments to the Guidelines, the term of service, and nomination process for the poet laureate.

In initiating the bi-annual search process for the City Poet Laureate in December 2008, the Poet Laureate Review Committee determined that the current guidelines needed greater clarification regarding the nomination process for a sitting Poet Laureate, should he or she choose to serve a second two-year term. Our last two Poet Laureates have opted to serve only one two-year term.

The City Arts Advisory Committee, at their January 15, 2009 meeting, recommended forwarding to the City Council minor amendments to the Guidelines regarding the term of service and who may nominate. The proposed language change is below.

Term of Service:

The Poet Laureate for the City of Santa Barbara is an honorary position. The individual selected will serve one two-year term, commencing in April. Nearing the end of the Poet Laureate's term and prior to initiating the nomination process, the Poet Laureate Review Committee may extend an invitation to the sitting Poet Laureate to serve a second consecutive term, based on his or her performance. The Poet Laureate will have thirty days to respond. If he or she elects not to accept the Committee's invitation, the Poet Laureate must wait an intervening term prior to being re-nominated. After completion of his or her term(s) of service, any past Poet Laureate may be re-nominated after an intervening term(s). The City will award the Poet Laureate an honorarium of One Thousand

Dollars (\$1,000.00) per year, which shall encompass all civic or official work performed or produced in this position.

Who May Nominate:

Santa Barbara Poet Laureate nominations may come from any organization or individual. Self-nominations will not be accepted.

The proposed new language does not change the basic policy set by the Council in 2004 and later revised in 2006. It does clarify that no one may self-nominate and that it is the role of the Poet Laureate Review Committee of the City Arts Advisory to contact the sitting Poet Laureate prior to the end of their first two-year term and, based on his or her performance, extend an invitation to serve a second two-year term. If the sitting Poet Laureate chooses not to serve, a nomination process for a new Poet Laureate will then take place.

These changes are recommended with the understanding that the City's Arts Advisory Committee will conduct a bi-annual recruitment, and will direct the Poet Laureate Review Committee to contact the presiding Poet Laureate more than 30 days prior to initiating a call for nominations. The City's Arts Advisory Committee believes conducting a bi-annual recruitment is important in that the process brings attention to the position as well as to poetry in our community. It also shows the commitment of the City of Santa Barbara in promoting the importance of poetry, reading, and writing in our community.

BUDGET/FINANCIAL INFORMATION:

There is no budget implication associated with this Council item.

ATTACHMENT: Draft Poet Laureate Nomination Guidelines

PREPARED BY: Ginny Brush, Executive Director, County Arts Commission

SUBMITTED BY: Paul Casey, Community Development Director

APPROVED BY: City Administrator's Office



Arts Advisory Committee
Arts Commission Post Office Box 2369 Santa Barbara, CA 93120

SANTA BARBARA POET LAUREATE
Guidelines for Nominations

Statement of Purpose:

The City of Santa Barbara is seeking nominations for the position of Santa Barbara Poet Laureate. The person selected shall seek to advance awareness of and appreciation for literary arts and humanities within the greater Santa Barbara community. As both a local resident and a distinguished poet, the Poet Laureate shall represent and celebrate the diversity and history of Santa Barbara. As a spokesperson for the City's literary community, the Poet Laureate shall endeavor to promote the artistic achievements of the City of Santa Barbara and shall actively participate in ceremonial, educational, and cultural activities in the community at various times throughout his or her term of service.

Term of Service:

The Poet Laureate for the City of Santa Barbara is an honorary position. The individual selected will serve one two-year term, commencing in April. Nearing the end of the Poet Laureate's term and prior to initiating the nomination process, the Poet Laureate Review Committee may extend an invitation to the sitting Poet Laureate to serve a second consecutive term, based on his or her performance. The Poet Laureate will have thirty days to respond. If he or she elects not to accept the Committee's invitation, the Poet Laureate must wait an intervening term prior to being re-nominated. After completion of his or her term(s) of service, any past Poet Laureate may be re-nominated after an intervening term(s). The City will award the Poet Laureate an honorarium of One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) per year, which shall encompass all civic or official work performed or produced in this position.

Term Expectations

As a condition of appointment, the Poet Laureate will participate in a minimum of four annual public functions throughout the term of service. These would include, for example, the inaugural meeting each year of the Santa Barbara City Council, Solstice, Old Spanish Days, and the Book and Author Festival. Additionally, the Poet Laureate shall aim to be actively involved with local schools, and shall endeavor to create or facilitate workshops and readings that will bring the Poet Laureate into contact with students. To the extent possible, the Poet Laureate also will establish programs to coincide with his or her term of service to promote community awareness of the literary arts and to encourage community members to develop their own creative interests.

Who May be Nominated:

Eligible nominees must meet the following requirements:

- Be a current resident of or work in the City of Santa Barbara and its environs, (defined as being within the First, Second or Third Supervisorial District), with at least five concurrent years of residency or employment.\
- Be available to travel throughout the greater Santa Barbara community
- Be a recognized poet who meets the review criteria listed below

Review Criteria:

- A proven history of substantial publication of individual poems and/or books, including at least one work that is not self-published or by a vanity press
- An established history of activity in the Santa Barbara literary community, i.e., readings, publications, public presentations, and/or teaching
- Critical acclaim as demonstrated by special honors, awards, or other recognition

Who May Nominate:

Santa Barbara Poet Laureate nominations may come from any organization or individual. Self-nominations will not be accepted.

The Poet Laureate Review Committee:

The Poet Laureate shall be appointed by the Mayor of the City of Santa Barbara based upon the recommendation of the Poet Laureate Review Committee. This Review Committee shall consist of members of the City of Santa Barbara's Arts Advisory Committee assisted by members of the Visual Arts in Public Places Committee. They will make the selection based upon the criteria as set forth above. Additionally, there shall be advisory members of the Review Committee, who shall include the City Council member serving as liaison to the Arts Advisory Committee as well as one representative chosen from the Santa Barbara literary community.

Nomination Deadline: February 11, 2009:

Nominations must be sent to the **Santa Barbara Poet Laureate Review Committee** at one of the following addresses. Hand deliveries must be received no later than 5PM on the deadline date; mail deliveries must be postmarked on or before the deadline date. Material submitted will not be returned.

All material must be clearly addressed to the **Santa Barbara Poet Laureate Review Committee.**

Mailing Address:

City of Santa Barbara Arts Advisory Committee
C/O Santa Barbara County Arts Commission
P.O. Box 2369
Santa Barbara, California 93120

Hand Delivery:

Santa Barbara County Arts Commission
Santa Barbara County Courthouse
Third Floor, Rotunda Tower
1100 Anacapa Street

For further information on the Santa Barbara Poet Laureate position, please contact: Santa Barbara County Arts Commission at 805.568-3990 or www.sbartscommission.org